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DIRECTORATE OF  
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NOTE

YUGOSLAVIA-ITALY: THE YUGOSLAVS ARE AGAIN  
PRESSING ITALY TO CONSIDER BILATERAL MILITARY COOP-  
ERATION.

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DEFENSE MINISTER LJUBICIC HAS REAFFIRMED HIS  
LATE APRIL COMMENT TO THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR THAT  
ROME AND BELGRADE HAD "COMMON DEFENSE NEEDS" AND  
SUGGESTED THAT THE TIME MAY HAVE COME FOR COOPERA-  
TION IN THE MILITARY FIELD. ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL YUGO-  
SLAV MILITARY OFFICIAL TOOK A SIMILAR TACK IN A DIS-  
CUSSION WITH THE ITALIAN NAVAL ATTACHE IN BELGRADE.  
TITO APPRECIATES THAT OVERTURES FOR MILITARY COOP-  
ERATION WITH A MEMBER OF NATO RISK ANTAGONIZING THE  
USSR, BUT HE APPARENTLY IS SEEKING TO CULTIVATE NATO  
SYMPATHIES AS A HEDGE AGAINST FUTURE SOVIET PRES-  
SURES. ALTHOUGH TITO DOES NOT APPEAR TO PERCEIVE  
ANY IMMEDIATE DANGER OF A SOVIET INVASION, HE IS  
TAKING STEPS TO PREPARE HIS PEOPLE FOR FURTHER DE-  
TERIORATION IN RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW.

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